

THE ALMA RECORD

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H. S. BARCOCK, Editor

ELINOR G. BARCOCK, Associate Editor

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

A CLEAN-UP IS NEEDED

President Harding should be commended for making changes in supervisory positions in the government service with a view to attaining efficiency and that measure of economy which is necessary in order to reduce taxes.

The Harding Administration at Washington is keenly alive to the baneful influence of the many who were appointed during the war period and who have been tolerated in their positions up to the present time. Many officials in places of importance are known to be on the most intimate terms with Mr. Tumulty, who maintains an office at the National Capital. They were part of the most extravagant and inefficient administration in American history, and do not seem to know the meaning of economy.

Mr. Harding has taken plenty of time to satisfy himself of the true conditions, and has accumulated sufficient evidence to warrant drastic action. The wholesale cleanup of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing is part of the effort to reorganize the Federal service along lines of economy and cooperation.

"There can be no just criticism of President Harding for what he is doing; rather should he be congratulated for his latest move toward Federal efficiency. Practically every officeholder in a position of power or influence under the former administration was appointed because of his value as a political prop to the Wilson-McAdoo-Burleson-Tumulty machine. Those appointees knew why they were selected, and they also knew that their tenure of office depended on loyalty to that machine. Republican policies are almost a complete reversal of those that obtained when Mr. Wilson was President. The closest cooperation is essential if the people are to get the sort of government they have a right to expect after the overwhelming Republican vote that put President Harding in the White House. That cooperation will be fatally defective if it is going to depend on Wilson holdovers for success, because they are out of sympathy.

"Furthermore, the Republicans have assumed entire responsibility for the conduct of the Government while they are in control, and the people of the country will hold the party accountable for whatever mistakes may be made. That being the fact, President Harding must be accorded the right of selecting his own assistants. Not only Cabinet officers but subordinate officials having supervisory authority in directing the management of public business should be men who believe that the President's policies are sound and who are willing to do their full part toward making them a success.

Not only does Mr. Harding owe it to himself to appoint men in sympathy with his work, but he owes it to the voters themselves to see that no man is kept in a position of executive responsibility who is not a loyal supporter of the desire to get the nation back to normal, curtail public expenditures and reduce the burden of taxation. Only by so doing can the verdict of the ballots in the 1920 elections be fulfilled. The people signified their determination to have an unhampered Republican administration of the executive and legislative branches of the Government, as well as a Republican President in the White House. Mr. Harding should be given nation-wide support in his effort to rid the public service of men who are either incompetent or not in sympathy with his effort to effect material economies in the interest of the taxpayers, and his administration should be held responsible for results. It is only co-operation in the reduction of taxes, by stopping graft and waste that our country may be brought to normal and disaster averted.

REAPING AS WE SOW

As a people we Americans are too indifferent to matters of national concern.

We are indifferent because we do not enter actively into the discussing and shaping of such affairs. We have no time to devote to the national welfare because we are engaged almost exclusively in the accumulation of money for our necessities and pleasures.

This trait is not found only in the Republican party, or in the Democratic party, or among any certain class of people. We are all tarred with the same brush, and the tar is thick and black, and sticks.

If things don't go to suit us in Washington we roar chestily for a day or two, and then forget all about it. We don't follow up the roars with definite action.

Because of this weakness we suffer from appalling waste and extravagance in our national life. We see officials vacillating in their weakness and indecision when they should be firm and aggressive in their action.

And, above everything else, we see crime rampant throughout the country, and taxation scraping the lining of the skies.

We reap as we sow, and the yield is no more than we sow.

EASY ON THE BRAIN

Occasionally we hear of a brainy man who reads action stories in order to divert his mind from the strenuousness of his career. He finds relaxation and it is good for him.

Stories founded upon the wild and woolly days of the early west appeal to him. The heroes are genuine "he men," with oceans of red blood in their veins, and he thrills as he reads of their marvelous exploits.

But he misses the best of all action stories.

He should read the Bible.

No writer of modern or other fiction has ever been able to duplicate the wonders that are told in that book.

No human mind has ever been able to grasp the import of the deeds recorded therein.

It is the only book that has ever been written that holds its own against the lapse of an eternity of time.

Even brainy men may find rest and relaxation in reading of the glories that are told in the Book of Books.

Try it.

Where Your Taxes Go

How Uncle Sam Spends Your Money in Conducting Your Business

By EDWARD G. LOWRY

Author, "Washington Close-Up," "Banks and Financial Systems," etc. Contributor Political and Economic Articles to Leading Periodicals and a Writer of Recognized Authority on the National Government's Business Methods.

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NO REWARD FOR LOYALTY

What can a man hope for who enters the government service as a career? Let us look at some actual cases. Here is the story of one as told by E. J. Ayers, chief clerk, Department of the Interior. He cites it as a case similar to that of many others in his department, and says there are many others who are in worse circumstances:

"The records of our department show that he entered the service as a laborer at \$600 a year, after a service of three and a half years in the United States navy as a first-class fireman, with an honorable discharge. He has been with us for more than thirty-three years, and is sixty-six years old, and has given more than half his life to the service of the government. He owns a little property three miles beyond the Chesapeake Junction, and he gets up early in the morning, before daylight, and comes in to work and goes out after dark at night. Today he is getting \$840 a year. He has raised a family of nine children—three of whom are now dead—eight boys and one daughter. His elder sons are married and have established homes of their own. Two of his sons were in the military service in France, and his daughter, twelve years old, lives with her grandmother, where he is supporting, educating and clothing her.

"He is a white man, a very intelligent man, eminently qualified for this particular line of work. His wife is dead. He is his own housekeeper and he does the cooking and the washing and the ironing.

"His home was established in its present location because it was not thought practicable to raise a family in the district, and he bought a piece of property in Prince George's county, three miles beyond the railroad terminal, which distance, as I said, he walks twice a day, leaving in the morning most of the year before daylight, and returning home by dark. This small place consists of a shack and a few acres of land on which he has a mortgage of \$1,000, and you can judge that he enjoys no conveniences other than the small house, which protects him from the elements.

"The house is divided into four rooms, the partitions being of paper tacked to the framework, there being no laths or plaster.

"The small stove standing in the center of the room he has used for more than twenty years, and the pot on the stove contains his Sunday dinner, which he has prepared for himself, consisting of white navy beans and fatback. These beans are now costing him twenty-five to thirty cents a quart, and the fatback costs him forty cents a pound. It could have been purchased a few years ago for seventeen cents a pound, and the beans for ten cents. He does not get any fresh meat because he cannot afford to buy it.

"To my mind it seems a pity that the United States government should employ men of that type, or any other type for that matter, and not give them enough to live on decently. It is particularly a pity in this case because he is somewhat superior to many of the employees. He has stayed with us as a matter of faithfulness to the government, and has stayed with us when he could make more in one week outside of the government than we pay him for one month.

"Others have left us, but instances of that kind have been very few. At one time I had in our auditorium our employees and I made an appeal to them to stand by us during the war period, and there were more than 300 of them present, and they all of one accord assured us that they would stand by us and would give us the benefit of their labor in our department during the war period, notwithstanding the fact that the price for labor outside was a great deal more."

This curious pride in their work and loyalty to the government and the government service was a thing that cropped up in the most unexpected places. As one employee put it: "I think you will find that every service seems to be quite proud of its work. I know you will find it in our service as far as compensation and such as that are concerned. The pay in this office is small, but that element, that feeling in a man's mind that he is really helping to accomplish good work and helping this government to function well, is really part of it. I find in all my talks with employees that they really feel proud of their work, and that pride is really what gets things done. I think that is true everywhere in the whole service, and particularly throughout the executive departments."

That is curiously true, and it is one of the reasons, possibly the chief reason, why men stay on in the departments year after year at a low rate of pay and not much possibility of promotion.

The Season's Peet.

An original man is one who does not talk about the weather. An exceptional man is one who hasn't a bad cold. An interesting man is one who doesn't advise you to try "the best cold cure."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

TAXES ARE NOT HIGH HERE—ALMA'S BELOW THE AVERAGE

Reports that the taxes of Alma are excessive, regardless of who may be handling out the reports, is evidently given a black eye by the following table, which is just a small portion of a table compiled recently by J. W. Kelder, superintendent of schools, in which it is shown that Alma ranks very low in tax rate of the cities of the state with a population of 2,000 or over.

Mr. Kelder's table gives data on 91 cities of the state with a population of over 2,000. Of these 91 cities 82 pay a higher school tax rate per \$1,000 of valuation than do the citizens of Alma. Of these 21 cities 63 pay a higher city tax than do the property owners of Alma. Including school, city, state, and county tax, the latter varying in various counties, 75 of these cities pay a higher all purpose tax than do the property owners in Alma.

The bonded indebtedness of Alma and the school district combined, is larger than many of these cities, showing that Alma and the school district probably have a bigger interest and sinking fund total for the payment of this bonded indebtedness. This would indicate that the operating expense of the city and of the school board of Alma would be lower than some of the other cities even though the tax rates were equal. Certainly Alma shows a healthy condition in this respect compared with most other cities of the state.

Figures on many of the cities could not be secured, among them St. Louis, Mt. Pleasant and Ithaca. For the benefit of our readers who know something of conditions in other nearby communities a representative list of central Michigan communities has been taken from the list of 91 cities to show how Alma compares with the balance of the cities of this part of the state. The table following is worthy of study:

City	School Tax Rate	City Tax Rate	County Tax Rate	Road Tax Rate	All Purpose Tax Rate	Assessed Valuation	Bonded Debt of District	Bonded Debt of City
Vassar	\$30.80	\$22.50	\$4.50	\$10.45	\$68.25	\$98,465	\$37,000	\$50,000
Mason	31.21	20.60	4.50	11.21	67.52	2,130,000	100,000	33,000
Bad Axe	17.13	.....	.....	36.00	53.13	1,897,000	40,000	30,000
Owosso	16.19	17.71	7.66	43.82	85.38	16,930,000	308,520	30,000
Big Rapids	15.62	14.14	7.58	49.41	86.75	5,505,000	35,000	127,000
St. Johns	15.35	17.00	5.55	42.10	80.00	3,316,200	3,000	50,000
Saginaw, W.S.	14.77	12.65	4.48	24.74	56.64	30,209,522	1,076,000	1,575,572
Midland	14.16	12.15	4.84	34.71	65.86	2,253,571	100,000	250,000
Caro	15.80	15.00	2.60	25.30	58.70	2,475,020	10,000	25,000
Greenville	12.14	18.32	3.51	37.05	61.02	4,110,088	153,000	35,000
Cadillac	11.96	12.32	6.46	33.80	62.54	2,589,460	64,000	71,000
Ironia	11.50	15.30	5.54	24.90	57.24	5,178,211	.....	30,000
Charlotte	11.47	11.50	3.61	31.02	57.60	4,134,000	14,000	45,000
ALMA	9.47	11.25	2.69	27.90	51.31	12,735,655	72,000	346,000
Saginaw, E. S.	8.05	12.04	4.47	29.92	54.48	27,458,938	.....	2,287,000
Lansing	6.93	6.53	3.06	29.82	46.34	122,399,169	.....	3,177,757

A careful inspection of the table on the above cities in the region of central Michigan shows Alma to have the lowest tax rate for all purposes except for Lansing, Lansing and Saginaw East Side have a lower school rate, and Lansing a lower city tax rate.

On the basis of the table for the 91 cities the average school tax rate was shown to be \$14.76, against the Alma school tax of \$9.47. The average tax rate for all purposes shows a rate of \$58.50 per \$1,000 of valuation, against the Alma tax rate of \$51.31 for all purposes. In spite of this fact there are some people here who persist in spreading the rumor that taxes are high in Alma, when the Alma tax rates are way below the average.

EAST ALMA

Mr. Walter Martin, Eastward st., has been called to Shelbyville, Ill., by the severe illness of his father.

Mr. and Mrs. James W. Pitmon, and Mrs. Lizzie Nicholson, have moved from Eastward street to the house adjoining the Wolverine Dairy on Michigan avenue, where they are opening a boarding house and a restaurant.

Dan Dickens, Grace avenue, left Wednesday for Charlotte, N. C., to help build a Service Station there for the Republic Truck Co. He expects to return home in two weeks time.

Mr. and Mrs. Foley, who have been living on Dr. Smith's farm, two and one-half miles west of Alma, have moved to a home on Highland avenue, near the corner of Plum avenue. Mr. Foley is employed in Durkee's Music Store.

Mr. Earl Faught, who has been having medical treatment in Bay City is somewhat recovered from his illness and has returned to his business in Mt. Pleasant.

The youngest child of the La Rue family, Eastward street, has undergone an operation in Brainerd's hospital and is making a good recovery. The next oldest child is just getting over the mumps.

Mr. Clarence Humphrey is substituting for one of the bakers at the Superior Bakery, who is suffering from an attack of mumps.

The Eastminster Ladies' Aid will meet on Friday afternoon, April 21, with Mrs. Ella B. Mead, 134 Carolina avenue.

Miss Bernice Evans of Gaylord and Miss Emma Ritter of New York City, both students at Alma college, were visitors at Eastminster chapel Sunday night where Miss Ritter gave to the C. E. society a most interesting and graphic account of her experiences with the Fresh Air Children's movement in New York City.

At the evening service at Eastminster chapel the audience enjoyed a treat in listening to several selections sung by Messrs. Robinson, Winslow, Kelder and White, with Mrs. Winslow as piano accompanist. Scenes from New York City were shown by the moving picture machine after which Dr. Gelston gave a sermonette on the Eternal City.

There will be a communion service this Sunday morning at 11:30 a. m. at Eastminster chapel when it is expected several persons will unite with the church. In the evening at 7 p. m. an Easter pageant, with music, will be presented.

G. Harold Dean and his S. S. class of boys are cleaning up the lawn at Eastminster chapel.

Ladies, get a box of the Social size Hammermill Bond Stationery, 250 sheets of paper with the same number of envelopes at the Record office.—advertisement

For your Easter Candy Specialties, The DeLuxe.—advertisement—46-2w.

Tom Mix

— in —

"Sky High"

Strand — Saturday

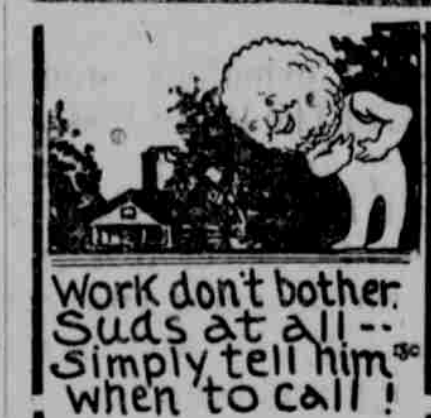
Task Worthy of Artist.

I was thinking, as I took a parcel of laundry up to the Chinaman on McFee street just now, it would be interesting to write a book dealing solely, candidly, exactly, and fully with the events, emotions, and thoughts of just one day in a man's life. If one could do that, in a way to carry conviction, assent, and reality, to convey to the reader's senses a recognition of genuine actual human being, one might claim to be a true artist.—Christopher Morley.

Uncle Sam.

Several stories are offered in explanation of the origin of the term Uncle Sam. One is that Samuel Wilson, inspector of provisions in the Revolution, was called by his helpers and friends, "Uncle Sam." Goods came into his hands one day consigned to one of the contractors named Elbert Anderson, and marked "E. A. U. S." These initials were construed by one of the workmen as "Elbert Anderson and Uncle Sam." The term has lived and Uncle Sam is a synonym for the republic as it stands for the people as a whole.

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If there ever was anyone fond of work Suds is that individual. He likes to receive your soiled garments and send them back to you in a pure, sweet, clean condition. He knows his business thoroughly well. Send for Suds.

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Phone 233

Treat Catarrh new way

Head colds, too, yield to the double action of Vicks VapoRub

Apply Vicks up the nostrils. Snuff it well back. Also melt some Vicks in a spoon or tin cup and inhale the vapors. At night repeat and rub on neck. Vapors will be inhaled all night.

Sufferers from chronic catarrh will get welcome relief and better sleep thru this treatment, and persistency will be well rewarded.

Head colds are checked or completely warded off if thus treated at the onset.

Vicks combines in salve form the old, time-tested remedies—Camphor, Menthol, Eucalyptus, Thyme and Oil of Turpentine. It is the most universal treatment today for all cold troubles as well as cuts, bruises and itching skin troubles.

VICKS
VAPORUB
Over 17 Million Jars Used Yearly

Just rub it on and breathe in the vapors



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THE UNIVERSAL CAR

Have you purchased that car yet?

We can meet your requirements for business or pleasure in new or second hand cars.

Come in and look our line over.

The prices are right.

Ford cars are an Economy.

We can make immediate delivery for the next 10 days.

A full line of U. S. Goodyear, Goodrich and Firestone Tires.

Remember our shop work is down to pre-war prices.

Bring in your Batteries and Radiators.

Yours for service,

Niles Motor Sales Co.

Ford and Fordson Sales and Service
ALMA, MICHIGAN

Scratch Pads at The Reord Office